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Associated Brands

August 8, 2003

ATTENTION: TTB Notice No. 4  
Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau  
P.O. Box 50221  
Washington, D.C. 20091-0221

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is in response to the proposed rule issued in March 2003 by the Tax and Trade Bureau that outlines the alcohol content requirements in order for flavored malt beverages (FMB) to be classified as beer. The TTB proposes that for an FMB to be designated as beer, its alcohol content from distilled alcohol cannot exceed 0.5%.

Blue Ridge Distributing Co. Inc and Associated Brands would like to be noted as supporting this proposed rule, and hopefully the eventual adoption of the TTB "0.5 by volume standard".

We feel the proposed rule would help maintain an orderly marketplace and avoid costly and confusing disruptions in state licensing, taxation and distribution policies.

Beer is neither a distilled spirit nor a fortified wine. To ensure the integrity of beer, both Blue Ridge Distributing Co. Inc. and Associated Brands encourages the TTB to give final approval to the proposed 0.5% standard on FMBs.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Robinson  
Vice President

Associated Brands is a trade name of The Blue Ridge Distributing Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 819, Conover, North Carolina 286130 2214 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina 28658  
Telephone (828) 464-8483 0 Fax (828) 4646054 0 Email WinesEtc@charter.net